

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A decoding apparatus has: M tables for storing, in correspondence with M types of variable-length code  
5 tables, minimum code words or maximum code words of classes of variable-length code words constructing a variable-length code table; a table selector which selects one table from the M tables; N comparators which compare input coded data with the minimum code words or  
10 maximum code words outputted from the table selected by the table selector; a switch circuit and a priority encoder which obtain a class number corresponding to an initial code word of the input coded data based on results of comparison by the N comparators; a code  
15 length converter which converts the class number into a code length; and an address generator which generates an address to access a memory holding decoded data from the class number and the code length outputted said code length converter. The data outputted from the memory  
20 based on the address becomes decoded data of the input coded data.